

THE STATE OF TEXAS
v. BUCK DUANE SETTLE,
DEFENDANT

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IN THE 139TH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT OF
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

CHARGE OF THE COURT

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY:

The Defendant, BUCK DUANE SETTLE, stands charged by indictment with the offense of CAPITAL MURDER alleged to have been committed in Hidalgo County, Texas, on or about JULY 14, 2006, and to this charge the Defendant has pled, "Not guilty."

1.

Our law provides that a person commits the offense of Murder when the person intentionally or knowingly causes the death of an individual.

A person commits the offense of Capital Murder when such person intentionally commits the murder in the course of committing or attempting to commit the offense of Robbery.

2.

"In the course of committing robbery" means conduct that occurs in an attempt to commit, during the commission or in immediate flight after the attempt or commission of robbery.

"Attempt" to commit an offense occurs if, with specific intent to commit an offense, a person does an act amounting to more than mere preparation that tends, but fails, to effect the commission of the offense intended.

"Bodily injury" means physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition, including death.

"Robbery" as used herein is with intent to obtain or maintain control of property, a person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to another or intentionally or knowingly threatens or

places another in fear of imminent bodily injury.

"Property" as used herein means tangible or intangible personal property or documents, including money that represent or embody anything of value.

3.

A person acts intentionally, or with intent, with respect to a result of his conduct when it is his conscious objective or desire to cause the result.

4.

Now, if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about JULY 14, 2006, in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, BUCK DUANE SETTLE, did then and there intentionally cause the death of an individual, namely, Guy Solida, by shooting him with a firearm, and the Defendant was then and there in the course of committing or attempting to commit the offense of robbery of Guy Solida, then you will find the Defendant guilty of the offense of Capital Murder.

Unless you find beyond a reasonable doubt, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you will acquit the Defendant of the offense of Capital Murder and next proceed to the lesser included offense of Murder.

5.

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about JULY 14, 2006, in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, BUCK DUANE SETTLE, did intentionally cause the death of GUY SOLIDA by shooting GUY SOLIDA with a firearm, but you have a reasonable doubt as to whether the Defendant was then and there engaged in the commission of robbery or attempted robbery of GUY SOLIDA at the time of the said shooting, if any, then you will find the Defendant guilty of Murder, but not Capital Murder.

Unless you so find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you will acquit the defendant of the offense of Murder and say by your verdict "Not Guilty".

6.

If you should find from the evidence that Defendant is guilty of neither Capital Murder nor Murder, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you will find the Defendant not guilty.

You are instructed that you may consider all relevant facts and circumstances surrounding the killing, if any, and the previous relationship existing between the accused and the deceased, if any, together with all relevant facts and circumstances going to show the condition of the mind of the accused at the time of the shooting in question, if any.

7.

A grand jury indictment is the means whereby a defendant is brought to trial in a felony prosecution. It is not evidence of guilt nor can it be considered by you in passing upon the issue of guilt of the defendant. The burden of proof in all criminal cases rests upon the State throughout the trial, and never shifts to the defendant.

All persons are presumed to be innocent and no person may be convicted of an offense unless each element of the offense is proved beyond a reasonable doubt. The fact that a person has been arrested, confined, or indicted for, or otherwise charged with, the offense gives rise to no inference of guilt at his trial. The law does not require a defendant to prove his innocence or produce any evidence at all. The presumption of innocence alone is sufficient to acquit the defendant, unless the jurors are satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt of the defendant's guilt after careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence in the case.

The prosecution has the burden of proving the Defendant guilty and it must do so by proving each and every element of the offense charged beyond a reasonable doubt and if it fails to do so, you must acquit the Defendant.

It is not required that the prosecution prove guilt beyond all possible doubt; it is required that the prosecution's proof excludes all "reasonable doubt" concerning the Defendant's guilt.

In the event you have a reasonable doubt as to the Defendant's guilt after considering all the evidence before you, and these instructions, you will acquit Defendant and say by your verdict "Not Guilty".

You are the exclusive judges of the facts proved, of the credibility of the witnesses and the weight to be given their testimony. You will be governed by the law you shall receive in these written instructions.

When you retire to the jury room, you should first select one of your members as Presiding Juror. It is the Presiding Juror's duty to preside at your deliberations, vote with you, and when you have unanimously agreed upon a verdict, to certify to your verdict by using the appropriate form attached thereto, and signing the same as Presiding Juror.

In order to return a verdict, each juror must agree thereto, but jurors have a duty to consult with each other and to deliberate with a view of reaching an agreement, if it can be done without violence to individual judgment.

Each juror must decide the case for himself or herself, but only after an impartial consideration of the evidence with his or her fellow jurors.

In the course of deliberations, a juror should not hesitate to re-examine his or her own views and change his or her opinion if convinced it is erroneous. However, no juror should surrender his or her honest conviction as to the weight or effect of the evidence solely because of the opinion of his or her fellow jurors, or for the mere purpose of returning a verdict.

During your deliberations in this case, you must not consider, discuss nor relate any matters not in evidence before you. You should not consider nor mention any personal knowledge or information you may have about any fact or person connected with this case which is not shown by the evidence.

You should not discuss or consider punishment for the offense charged for any purpose. You must concern yourselves solely with the question of guilt or innocence of the Defendant under these written instructions without regard to any possible punishment imposed by law for the offense charged.

During your deliberations, you are instructed that you should not consider the remarks, rulings or actions of the presiding judge during this trial as any indication of the Court's opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the Defendant. The remarks, rulings and actions of the presiding judge were upon matters of the law only and were not upon the facts which you, and you alone, must determine.

While you are deliberating, no one has authority to communicate with you except the officer who has you in charge being the Bailiff. However, after you have retired, you may communicate with the Court as to any questions you may have, but that communication must be in writing through the officer of the Court.

When you have reached a verdict you will notify the bailiff in writing, as to reaching a verdict, but not what the verdict is.

Do not let bias, prejudice, or sympathy play any part in your deliberations.

Your verdict must be unanimous, and after you have reached a unanimous verdict, the Presiding Juror will certify thereto by signing the appropriate form attached to this charge.

Filed on this the 16th day of January, 2008, at 4:40 o'clock P.m.


J.R. "BOBBY" FLORES
JUDGE PRESIDING
139TH DISTRICT COURT
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS